

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10185 301433Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-02
INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-15 COME-00 BIB-01 AF-08
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4388

UNCLAS GENEVA 10185

FOR EB/TD HUFFCUTT, PASS COMMISSIONER LEE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU
SUBJECT: ITU: DEAN OF BROADCAST SATELLITE CONFERENCE

1. IN MEETING WITH MISSION OFFICER ON DECEMBER 30, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BUTLER NOTED THAT COMMISSIONER LEE, WHO WAS BORN 1912, IS ELIGIBLE FOR SELECTION AS DOYEN (DEAN) OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE. PRIMARY DUTY WOULD BE TO CHAIR OPENING HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING WHICH PREPARES FIRST PLENARY AGENDA AND "GIVES ADVICE" ON COMMITTEES, STRUCTURE AND APPOINTMENTS. A US DEAN WOULD, ACCORDING TO BUTLER, NOT PREJUDICE POSSIBILITY OF US SERVING IN STEERING COMMITTEE POSITION.

2. PLEASE INFORM COMMISSIONER LEE OF POSSIBILITY. PRESUMABLY MATTER WILL BE BROUGHT UP AT LIMITED HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING ON SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 9.

3. HOWEVER, REQUEST DEPT ALSO ADVISE LEE THAT IT HAS BEEN CUSTOM IN ITU FOR US AND SOVIETS TO BOTH ABSTAIN FROM ACCEPTING MAJOR CONFERENCE POSITIONS (CONFERENCE CHAIRMANSHIP, DEAN POSIITON, ETC.). BUTLER MENTIONED THAT HEAD OF UKRAINIAN DELEGATION IS IN SIMILAR AGE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 10185 301433Z

BRACKET AND WOULD ALSO BE ELIGIBLE. ANOTHER POSSIBLE CANDIDATE IS HEAD OF AUSTRIAN DELEGATION. BY TRADITION WARC DEANS HAVE COME FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUT THIS YEAR, ASIDE FROM AUSTRIAN, NONE FALLS IN THIS AGE BRACKET.

4. GIVEN ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, MISSION SUGGESTS THAT LEE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER NOT PRESSING CLAIM FOR DEAN POSITION IF UKRAINIAN DOES LIKEWISE, WHICH MEANS AUSTRIAN LIKELY TO END UP AS DEAN.

5. ADVISE. CATTO

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